Scio Weekly Press.

SCIO ..... OREGON

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Culled From the Telegraph Columns.

The Great Northern west-bound overland passenger train was wrecked near Wenatchee, Wash. The wreck was caused by the spreading of the rails, and the entire train left the track. Some of the coaches went over a twelve-foot embankment and landed on their sides. There were about thirty people in each coach, but almost miraculously no one was killed, and only three persons were painfully injured.

The Pennsylvania state capitol has been destroyed by fire. The legislative halls are in ruins and a new structure must rise from the ashes of the building that has served as a meeting place of the state legislature since 1822. The flames within the short space of an hour, ate up $1,500,000 worth of property. The inefficiency of the Harrisburg volunteer fire department is generally blamed.

A special cablegram from Frankfort-on-the-Main to the New York Post says that the Berlin committee of holders of Oregon Railway & Navigation Company 5 per cent bonds have received a point bid of 45 from the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroad companies for all the stock of the Railway & Navigation Company represented by them, the purchase price to be payable July 1, with 3 per cent interest. The bid is conditional on its acceptance by at least $3,000,000 of stock. It is understood the Union Pacific will also become interested later in the purchase. The committee recommended acceptance to the bondholders.

George Edward Butler, the most noted criminal of late years, has just arrived in San Francisco on the Swanhilda from Australia. He was immediately arrested by Australian detectives and will be taken back to answer to his numerous crimes. He is known to have killed at least twelve men, and it is said his crimes may reach forty. His cold-blooded method was to insert an "ad" in Australian papers for a prospecting partner. When he found a man that suited his purpose he would lure him to some desolate spot and there request him to dig. When the unsuspecting victim would have dug deep enough in the earth, Butler would come behind him, and either shoot or stab him. He would then rob him, bury the body in the newly made grave, destroy all traces of his crime and return to the city for a fresh victim. His crimes show that he was utterly devoid of any sense of humanity.

It is understood among Massachusetts Republicans that ex-Congressman John D. Long has been tendered and has accepted the office of secretary of the navy in the incoming administration.

The Chinese New Year in San Francisco was a gloomy festival. No firecrackers were discharged, the edict of the chief of police positively forbidding any noisy demonstrations. A high-binder riot was feared and many suspicious characters have been arrested by the police.

A Washington special says President Cleveland has decided to veto the immigration bill passed by congress. He has disclosed his intentions to Senator Palmer. The chief executive will accompany the veto with a strong message pointing out the alleged eccentricities of the bill. The president is very bitter in his denunciation of the bill.

A Berlin dispatch says the court at Mayence has condemned Percy Bartholow, United States consul at that place, to pay a fine of 200 marks for assaulting and severely injuring an inmate of his house by striking him on the head with a revolver. The assault was committed in October last, and in November it was reported that proceedings had been abandoned upon his settling with the man privately, but this appeared not to have been the case.

Ex-Congressman James Wilson, of Iowa, has announced his acceptance of the cabinet portfolio recently tendered him by President-elect McKinley. Mr. Wilson in an interview said: "It is true I have been invited into President-elect McKinley's cabinet. I have accepted. That is all there is to say about the matter." It is generally known that Mr. Wilson will be secretary of agriculture, he having wired to Senator Allison that that portfolio had been offered and accepted.

Attorney-General Harmon has given instructions to the United States attorney at Jacksonville to proceed against the alleged filibuster Three Friends, under section 4297, of the revised statutes, for engaging in an act of piracy. The action is taken by the attorney-general in view of the recent decision of Judge Locke, of Jacksonville, which held in effect that the Cuban insurgents were not a people, state, district, or colony within the meaning of section 5283 of the revised statutes, under which the libel was brought. In other words, that the expedition in which she was engaged was not a political one.

A house was destroyed in Chinatown, Portland, by fire, the loss being in the neighborhood of $18,000, with very light insurance.

One half of the famous Naglee brandy of San Francisco, has been shipped east en route to Europe. This brandy belonged to the estate of General Naglee, who made part of it in 1869, and was the property of his daughter, Mrs. Robbins, of San Jose. The shipment consisted of seven carloads. It is probably the most valuable shipment of brandy ever made from California.

Captain Thomas R. Brown died at his home just south of Ashland, Or., aged about 53 years. Mr. Brown was well known in Washington, where he was United States marshal during the Harrison administration.

There died at the receiving hospital in San Francisco a man who claimed to have been of royal birth. He gave the name of Eugene de Beauharnais, and claimed to have been a descendent of Empress Josephine, the first wife of Napoleon. He also claimed to have been an officer in the Confederate navy.

JOINT ASSEMBLY FAILED.

The Necessary Forty-Six Votes Could Not Be Mustered.

The joint assembly of the Oregon legislature for the purpose of electing a United States senator at noon Wednesday came to naught. The Mitchell forces could only get forty members to enter it. Seeing that it would be impossible to secure forty-six, the required number, a recess was taken until 7:30 in the evening, but the night session developed no change.

Senator Reed tried to get a statement from Chairman Brownell as to which house was participating in the assembly. Brownell would not say and Reed walked out of the room, leaving only thirty-nine present. Of the Benson house Lake was absent.

The sensation of the convention was the action of Senator Hasletine, who was considered one of Mitchell's warmest supporters. Hasletine was present when the roll was called. He did not answer to his name, and the chair asked him if he wished to be recorded as present. Haseltine said:

"Mr. President, there is no question in my mind as to the illegality of the vote yesterday, and I therefore decline to come in at present."

Huntington Withdraws.

Representative Huntington, of Wasco, on Thursday, gave notice that he would withdraw from further participation. This is the first defection, and now leaves but thirty-eight members willing to elect a United States senator by means of a joint assembly. After the roll-call Huntington arose and said he desired to explain his position. He thought the Benson house was legally organized, and accordingly he had voted last Tuesday for a United States senator. He considered it his duty to do so. The joint assembly had now met for the third time, the roll had been called and no announcement of the result had been made from the chair. He had voted for a senator on Tuesday, but his candidate was not that of the balance of the organization. This convention was being held in the interest of a single candidate.

In view of the situation he felt it his duty to withdraw. He did not approve of the methods used in preventing the organization of the house or delaying the vote on senator.

Representative Lake has introduced in the house a bill to provide for the appointment by the governor of a state veterinary board of five, who shall examine applicants for license in much the same manner as the medical board. Members of the board are given per diem, and necessary expenses.

Representative Somers has introduced a bill in the house amending the present law relative to the fencing of railroads. It is designed to make it more convenient for cattle to pass at crossings.

Initiative and Referendum.

The following is the text of Senator King's proposed amendment to the constitution—the initiative and referendum:

"Section 1. The right to approve, reject and repeal state laws, or to reject or approve proposed state laws, shall rest with a majority of the legal voters of the state.

"Sec. 2. The right to propose, reject or approve, as the case may be, laws of the state, shall, in addition to being exercised by the legislative assembly, rest with a number of the legal voters of the state equal to (and not less than) 7 per cent of the votes cast at the last preceding general election, held for the election of the officers of the state and counties.

"Sec. 3. After the filing of such petition, the secretary of state shall designate a date for the holding of an election to vote thereon, which shall not be earlier than ten months after the adjournment of the last preceding session of the legislative assembly, nor later than one year thereafter; and no law, or proposed law, shall be voted upon at such election unless the petition therefor shall have been filed at least ninety days before the date fixed for such election. No election shall be held for such purposes oftener than once in every two years, at which time all bills shall be voted upon that have been petitioned for, and petition filed, within the time required herein.

"Sec. 4. No act passed by the legislative assembly shall become a law until six months after its approval by the governor, except in a case of emergency, in which event the facts constituting the emergency shall be stated in the act and the bill shall receive a two-thirds vote of the members elected to both branches of the legislative assembly; and within six months after its approval a petition shall have been filed, as required in sections 2 and 3 herein, an election shall be ordered as required in section 3 for the acceptance, rejection or approval of such law, or proposed law; and if at such election a majority of the legal votes be in favor of such law, the same shall then (and not before) become of full force and effect, but if less than a majority be in favor thereof, the same shall become void, provided, that if the petition against any law passed by the legislative assembly shall have been presented before the expiration of the six months after the approval of the act by the governor, in the manner herein required, such act shall not take effect before the date of such election.

"Sec. 5. The leigslative assembly, or the people of the state of Oregon, in the manner provided, may have the power to provide by law for more effectually carrying out all the provisions and intent of this amendment."

Senator King's second amendment to the constitution provides for the adoption of amendments by the legislature and their submission to the people. It also provides for the manner of submitting a new constitution to the referendum.

Senator Mulkey's concurrent resolution for the modification by congress of the Cascade reserve came up in the senate Thursday for final disposition. McClung offered an amendment for the exemption of 50,000 acres in and about the Three Sisters. Dufur and Michell opposed the amendment. Harmon favored it. Dufur finally moved that the resolution be referred to a committee of three, who should be instructed to report.

Two Paris aeronauts are going to try to beat the balloon record by remaining twenty-four hours in the clouds.

THE HOLT ELECTION BILL.

Measure to Be Actively Urged by the Populists.

The Holt election bill is a measure of considerable importance that will be urged actively upon the attention of the legislature. It will be championed by the Populists, and they desire its passage more perhaps than any other bill. It has been indorsed by the Populist party throughout the state.

The proposed act relates to the appointment of judges by county courts. Its policy is to provide for representation by the three leading parties on election boards, and it is made obligatory upon the county judge to designate the person recommended by the chairman of the respective central committees. The clerks are to be appointed in similar manner from the two leading parties. The appointments shall be made on the first Saturday in May, instead of in January, as at present.

The important section of the act follows:

"Sec. 3. On the first Saturday in May preceding each regular general election, the county judge in each county in this state shall appoint in each precinct in this county three judges of election possessing the qualifications of electors. In every county the chairman and secretary of the county central committees of the three political parties, which cast the largest, the second largest, and the third largest number of votes, respectively at the last general election in the state for justice of the supreme court shall each have the right and are hereby authorized to propose and recommend to the county judge of such county, in writing, the name of one qualified elector to serve as judge of election in each precinct in said county, and the county judge must and shall appoint the electors so recommeded. In each county of this state the chairman of the two political parties casting the greatest number of votes for the justice of the supreme court, and the second greatest number, respectively, at the last preceding general election in this state, may also on the first Saturday in May preceding each regular general election propose and recommend to the county judge of such county, in writing, the name of one qualified elector to serve as clerk of the election board in each precinct in said county, and the county judges must and shall appoint the qualified electors so recommended. If any county chairman and secretary, as above provided, shall fail to file with the county judge, before the first Saturday in May immediately preceding each regular general election, the names of the qualified electors they recommend for judges and clerks of election in any precinct or precincts in any county in this state, the county judge of such county shall appoint said officers on his own motion.

The state senate on Tuesday, by a vote of 16 to 12, refused to proceed to the election of a United States senator. The Benson house, with thirty members present, took a ballot, and cast 29 votes for John H. Mitchell and 1 for George H. Williams, of Portland. The one vote came from Huntington, of Wasco.

Senator Carter has by request presented the following bill relating to the free ferry at Corvallis:

"That the county court of Benton county, Or., is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a free ferry across the Willamette, river, at Corvallis, Or., and to accomplish that end shall have the power to buy, build or lease a ferry, grounds and equipments therefor, or may in the discretion of said court hire or employ other persons to furnish such ferry, grounds and equipments and run the same as a free ferry at all reasonable hours; provided, that in conducting said ferry it shall be lawful for said county court to prescribe rates of ferriage to be charged customers for crossing said ferry during the hours between 8 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning. Said county court is hereby authorized to do everything necessary to maintain said ferry as completelyas a natural person could do."

Here is a bill by Senator Harmon that will be of interest to many:

"Section 1. Any person riding or driving any vehicle, whether such vehicle is drawn or propelled by animal or other power, using any of the public roads in the state of Oregon, when met by any other vehicle shall keep to the right, and, when overtaken by any other vehicle, he shall likewise keep to the right, allowing such rider or driver to pass him to the left, so as in both cases to permit such vehicles to pass free and uninterrupted.

"Sec. 2. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than $10 nor more than $50, or imprisonment in the county jail not more than twenty-five days."

The senate committee on assessment and taxation has under consideration something like twenty-five bills, covering all phases of the subject. It meets almost daily for the purpose of considering them. Several of the bills provide an entirely new assessment of law; but Chairman Hughes thinks that the session has so far progressed that it will be inadvisable to attempt to enact a general law. An attempt will probalby be made to pass a special measure designed to correct the present assessment code.

The total appropriation for legislative expenses two years since was $55,000.

The Benson house was called to order at 2:30 Monday, pursuant to the adjournment on Friday. There were thirty present. Several bills were introduced and read.

The Davis house held a brief session Monday previous to the meeting of the Benson house. As usual nothing was done except to call the roll and move an adjournment until the day following.

Senator Price has introduced the following bill by request:

"Section 1. That it shall be unlawful to insert any provision or promise in a promissory note requiring the maker or makers thereof to pay any attorney fee in case suit or action shall be commenced to collect said note; but any note containing such promise or provision shall not otherwise be impaired."

A pinmaking machine turns out 8,000 an hour, and some factories have so many as thirty or forty machines at work at one time.

SIGNED BY THE QUEEN REGENT

Proposed Cuban Reforms Receive Sanction.

TO HAVE LIMITED HOME RULE

An Assembly Will Be Created Having Certain Powers in Administering the Affairs of the Island.

Madrid, Feb. 8.—The queen regent signed a plan for reforms in Cuba. The scheme includes numerous and elaborate decrees and will occupy several pages of the official gazette.

The reforms consist chiefly in the creation of an assembly to be called the council of administration, composed of thirty-five members, of whom twenty-one are to be elected by the people and six by different corporations. The remainder will be one magistrate, one university professor, one archbishop and five former senators or deputies.

The council of administration is empowered, firstly, to prepare a budget; secondly, to examine into the fitness of officials appointed; third, they make may a tariff, subject to the condition that Spanish imports will have the advantage over the general tariff.

The governor general will represent the home government, and have the right to nominate officials who shall be Cubans, or Spanish who have resided two years in Cuba. Nevertheless he may freely nominate high functionaries, such as magistrates, prefects, etc.

Other decrees concern the organization of provisional municipalities which are to be liberally representative. The municipal councils in general will be empowered to elect their president and have exclusive control of the public education.

According to another decree the government reserves to itself extraordinary powers in the event of any disturbance of the public order, and Cuba will continue to elect senators and deputies to the cortes as at present.

Altogether the reforms are much broader in the direction of decentralization than those granted to Porto Rico. The powers of the governor-general are much extended, while the council of administration is fairly representative of all parties and interests. The Spanish government will continue to vote the budgets and treaties for the colonies. Spanish products, according to the reform scheme, will be allowed a rebate of 40 per cent of the Cuban tariff compared with other imports.

ON AN EXPLORING TOUR.

Expedition to Leave for the Gulf of California.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The schooner H. C. Walburg, which, during the recent Hawaiian revolution, sailed out of this port for the Hawaiian islands with a cargo of arms and ammunition for the rebels, has been sold recently, and is fitting out for a more peaceful cruise.

When the Smithsonian Institution decided to send an expedition to explore the Gulf of California and its shores, arrangements were commenced to purchase the vessel for the use of the explorers. The schooner is now fitting out for this cruise. Professor Anthony, of San Diego, will be in charge, and with him will be Professor McGregor, of Stanford university, a botanist, and Henry B. Keading, an ornithologist.

The expedition will be in the gulf about six months, and in that time the explorers intend to visit Tiburn island, that has frequently been reported to be inhabited by cannibals.

WILL NOT REACH A VOTE.

Arbitration Treaty to Go Over to Next Session of Congress.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—A Times-Herald special from Washington says:

The understanding among senators at present is that the general arbitration treaty will come to a vote at this session of congress. No one doubts that it will be debated, but the opposition makes no secret of its intention to consume so much time in discussion that a vote cannot be reached.

It will be an easy matter to do this, as the business of the senate is fast reaching that stage in which there will be a great struggle for precedence. Already the friends of the Nicaragua canal bill, the immigration bill, the bankruptcy bill and other measures are fighting for time. In a short time the regular appropriation bills will have to be taken up and they will displace almost all other business. Under such circumstances it will be comparatively easy to crowd the treaty into the background. The sentiment of the senate is generally against an open debate on the treaty.

Three Killed in a Collision.

Desmet, S. D., Feb. 5.—A mixed train standing on a side track at Arlington last evening was run into by an engine going west. Conductor Addington, Brakeman Hoslah, John Loftus and Mr. Harrison were killed. Three passengers, W. Rice, of Helena; W. L. Loftus, of New Haven, Ia., and S. B. Griffing, of Desmet, were injured. The accident was the result of a dense fog.

Tacoma, Feb. 8.—A. W. Linderstrom, a farmer, living on Anderson's island, came home late tonight and, in a fit of anger took down a shotgun and blew out the brains of his 5-year-old son. When he saw the terrible deed he had accomplished, he placed the muzzle of the gun to his head and blew out his own brains. The trouble is said to have started from domestic causes. Coroner Hoska has gone to the scene, and further particulars are not obtainable.

A Dormitory Burned.

Lima, N. Y., Feb. 8.—The boy's dormitory of the Genesee Wesleyan seminary, a four-story brick building, was burned this morning. There were about 100 boys in the building, but no lives were lost. One student was injured. A valuable library was destroyed. The loss is $50,000.

Premature Explosion.

Towles, Cal., Feb. 8.—A premature explosion of a blast in the Pioneer mine today resulted in the death of D. J. Sullivan and Edward Thompson.

Durrant Believes Butler Innocent.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The supreme court of California has handed down no decision on the appeal of Theodore Durrant, found guilty of the murder of Blanche Lamont twenty-one months ago. It is understood the appeal has not yet been considered by the supreme justices, but many attorneys believe the justices will grant Durrant a new trial. So many important civil cases have precedence over the Durrant case that it is said a decision will not be handed down before the end of the year.

In an interview today Durrant expressed his sympathy with murderer Butler, "because the newspapers are hounding him," as he said. Durrant expresses his belief in Butler's innocence.

Fire at Salt Lake.

Salt Lake, Feb. 8.—Fire last night destroyed the Scott-Auerbach building, on Main street, entailing a loss of $250,000, a little over half covered by insurance. Besides the great financial loss, there were several accidents that narrowly escaped being fatalities. Electrician Vail, of the fire department, came in contact with a live wire and fell from the third story window of the building, but fortunately came in contact with a network of wires, which broke his fall, and though he dropped to the pavement with fearful violence, it was with lessened force. Miss Smith, a roomer in the building, was rescued by Assistant Chief Donovan from the roof, whither she had been driven by the pursuing smoke.

The Bubonic Plague.

Calcutta, Feb. 8.—The India council has just passed a bill looking to the better prevention of dangerous epidemics. The main provisions of this bill call for the detention of vessels until an inspection is made, the systematic examination of railway passengers and the creation of camps and hospitals for the isolation of diseased persons.

Duirng the course of the discussion John Woodburn, the revenue member, said that Surgeon-General Cleghorn would inform the Venice conference that the bubonic plague was entirely due to local conditions, and that it was not directly insectious or contagious.

Drowned While Skating.

Nebraska City, Neb., Feb. 8.—Five children, in age ranging from 5 to 10 years, broke through the ice while skating on a pond on the Iowa side across from this city last night and were drowned. Three boys belonged to the family of G. W. Gibson; one boy to the family of Phoenix Gibson, and a girl to J McIlvane. The children failing to reach their homes at the accustomed hour, search was instituted and their hats found floating on the edge of the pond, where a small hole had been broken through the ice. The bodies were found close together, all having gone down at once. The parents are prominent farmers in this section.

Two Indians Drowned.

The Dalles, Or., Feb. 8.—John Williams and Jim Waters, two Indians, who were fishing for sturgeon in the Columbia river, drowned at 11 o'clock this morning. The accident occurred at the narrows, three miles above here, where the current is very swift. An immense sturgeon got hold of their line and swung the boat across the current. The boat was upset and the whirling water soon carried them down.

A 9-year-old boy who was with them managed to reach shore with the aid of the oars from the boat, and told the story. The bodies have not been recovered.

His Head Was Crushed.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—A horrible accident occurred today in Smith's cash store, on Market street. John Tropp, a carpenter, was instantly killed, his head being almost torn off. Tropp was working between the second and third floors on a projection. As the elevator was descending from the fifth floor Tropp thrust his head into the shaft. At that moment the counterbalance came up and struck Tropp in the face crushing him in a frightful manner and nearly decapitating him.

Thrift, Thrift, Horatio!

Modesto, Feb. 8.—Miss Rebecca R. McMannus today attended her sister's funeral, and on returning from the cemetery was married to Henry H. Hayes. The bride is 15 years old and the groom 55. Both live in Oakdale in this county. The same minister officiated at the funeral and the wedding.

Mine Regulation Set Aside.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 8.—The full court of British Columbia decided today that the coal mines regulation act of 1890 was constitutional. The object of the act is to prevent the employment of Chinese and other Asiatics under ground in mines. Up to the present time this act has been a dead-letter law, the mineowners contending that the act was ultra vires.

Blown to Atoms.

Auburn, Cal., Feb. 8.—Word comes here of a terrible accident yesterday at the famous pioneer gravel mine near Damascus, this county, formerly the property of the late Senator Fair. The accident was caused by a blast, and Superintendent Sullivan was blown to atoms and another miner killed.

Utah's New Senator.

Salt Lake, Feb. 8.—The deadlock has been broken, and J. L. Rawlins was elected United States senator on the 53d ballot. This closes one of the most exciting political contests ever held in the state.

Trouble at Johannesburg.

London, Feb. 8.—The Globe this afternoon says a rumor is current in the city that serious disturbances have taken place at Johannesburg.

Fire at San Jose.

San Jose, Feb. 8.—Fire this morning gutted nearly a block in Chinatown, causing a loss of $40,000. It is not known how the fire originated, but it was probably due to the New Year's celebration. The buildings were owned by G. Heinlen, and fully insured, his loss being $6,000 to $10,000. The Chinese merchants lost heavily, and generally there was no insurance.

London, Feb. 8.—A dispatch from Bombay says the plague has made its appearance as far north as Delhi, and as far south as Bangalore.

OPPOSING THE CANAL.

Senator Vilas Votes in the Third Day of His Nicaragua Speech.

Washington, Feb. 5.—After a brief parliamentary struggle in the senate late this afternoon, the friends of the Nicaragua canal bill were unable to hold a quorum and sit out the obstruction to that measure.

The senate agreed to the house resolution fixing February 12 for the ceremony of counting the vote for president and vice-president before the two houses of congress. Although defeated for reelection, Senator Dubois, of Idaho, was welcomed back to the senate today with marked cordiality, and with an abundance of floral tributes. His desk was literally overwhelmed with flowers, while tables, chairs and adjoining desks were brought into use to support the many unique devices into which the roses and violets had been wrought. A great cluster of violets was tied with a ribbon bearing in silver "1900." The main design, rising eight feet from the floor, was an arch, the pillars being white roses and the capstone of immortelles, bearing the word "Honor."

In the House.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The contested election case of Cornell vs. Swanson, from the fifth Virginia district, occupied the attention of the house today. Three Republicans and three Democrats on the election committee had reported in favor of Swanson, and three Republicans offered a minority report, recommending that the seat be made vacant on the ground that a fair election could not be held under the Virginia election laws. When the vote came to be taken the majority could not muster enough votes to call the ayes and noes, and Swanson's title to his seat was confirmed by an overwhelming viva voce vote.

To Sell Forfeited Opium.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The house committee on ways and means today considered the bill recommended by the commissioner of internal revenue to authorize the sale of forfeited opium to the highest bidders. The committee decided to report the bill. Great quantities of opium have been seized by revenue officals on the Pacific coast and there is no authority under existing laws by which it can be sold.

Morgan Accepts the Amendments.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Senator Morgan, in charge of the Nicaraguan canal bill, accepted the two amendments proposed by Teller, providing that a complete survey of the canal route shall be submitted to the president and approved before any bonds are guaranteed or work done; also that if the survey shows the cost will exceed $150,000, nothing shall be done without authority of congress.

That New Cabinet Position.

Washington, Feb. 5.—A bill providing for the creation of a cabinet position to be filled by the secretary of labor was discussed today by the house committee on labor. The committee considered a suggestion that the department include commerce, labor and manufacture, but no action was taken.

Looks Squally for Scalpers.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The anti-scalper bill was under consideration in the senate committee on interstate commerce today, but action was deferred. The tenor of discussion indicated that a majority of the committee would be favorable to it with amendments.

For Improving Pearl Harbor.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Senator Frye today gave notice of an amendment which he proposes to offer to the sundry civil appropriation bill, appropriating $100,000 for the improvement of Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian islands, in accordance with plans of Rear-Admiral Walker.

Brosius Defends His Bill.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Representative Brosius, of Pennsylvania, spoke before the committee on banking and currency today, favoring the adoption of his bill to facilitate international agreement to establish an international bank.

Editor Thorp Found Dead.

Cottage Grove, Or., Feb. 5.—This morning about 9 o'clock, E. P. Thorp, editor of the Cottage Grove Leader, was found lying dead, face down in a pool of water a quarter of a mile east of this place. A doctor who arrived at the place soon after said Thorp was stricken with a severe attack of apoplexy.

Thorp suffered considerably for some time, both physically and mentally. Last year he bonded about fifty acres of land, put it out in fruit trees, but was unable to meet his obligations, and the property reverted back to its original owner. He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and belonged to the Masonic order, by which he will be buried tomorrow. Mr. Thorp was in the newaspper business about twenty-five years. He was about 55 years old. He left a daughter at Centralia, Ill.

California Crop Prospects.

San Francisco, Feb. 5.—With almost continuous rains for two weeks the crop prospects of California are considered excellent. This season's acreage of wheat has been largely increased over that of recent years, and conditions point to a bountiful cereal crop. Fruit also promises well, but it is too early to predict the yield.

For Better Wagon Roads.

Walla Walla, Feb. 3.—At a meeting of the Commercial Club today the matter of securing a better system of wagon roads was discussed at length and a resolution adopted urging representatives at Olympia to introduce a bill to encourage the use of broad tires on farm wagons.

General W. P. Craighill, chief of engineers, has been placed on the retired list, under the forty years' service law.

Will Be Secretary of Interior.

St. Louis, Feb. 5.—A special to the Globe-Democart from Canton says: Judge McKenna, of San Francisco, has accepted the portfolio of secretary of the interior in President McKinley's cabinet. Judge McKenna's first assistant will probably be Major Warner, of Kansas City. This information was given by the president-elect to a delegation who called to urge the appointment of Judge William Warner.

Two Germans have taken out a patent for the "inoculation of the soil with bacteria for the cultivation of plants."

THE BOUNDARY OF ALASKA

Treaty Signed for the Settling of the Dispute.

NORTHERN PORTION ONLY

Its Report Will Be Followed by Negotiations for the Settlement of the Southern Section of Line.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote, at 11 o'clock today, signed a convention for the definition by a commission of so much of the boundary line between Alaska and the British possessions as is marked by the 141st meridian.

The treaty provides for a commission of four members, whose names will be agreed on hereafter. The commission will meet in London or Washington.

The formal name of the treaty is: "A convention between the United States and Great Britain for the demarkation of the 141st meridian west longitude, as may be necessary for the determination of the boundary between their respective possessions in North America."

Its purpose is to settle beyond doubt the exact location of the meridian, and thus prevent the clashing between the miners who have been attracted in large numbers to the vicinity of the boundary, and the location of these two countries. The 141st west meridian is to be selected as the boundary line by Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote, but was laid down as the line of division in the treaty of cession by which Alaska was passed by Russia to the United States. The difficulty has been to tell just where the meridian actually runs, by no means an easy task in such a country as Central Alaska. In even more hospitable climes, the task of defining physically such an abstract line as a meridian is beset with difficulties. It was a matter of no surprise that in the present case the two countries should clash often, now that the territory is known to include extensive and valuable gold deposits. As laid down on the charts, the mouth of Forty-mile creek, the Mecca of the goldhunters, debouches into the great Yukon river just near enough the meridian to cause each side, American and British, to set up the claim that it is in their territory.

As at present marked, the northern limit of the meridian which forms the boundary is 300 miles west of Mackenzie bay, and the southern extremity close to Mount St. Elias.

It is said at the state department that there is no reasonable chance for friction or a radical difference among the scientists who are to undertake the work of laying down the meridian, as this is mainly an astronomical calculation. The work of the commission will be final, for no appeal will lie from their decision.

The convention just signed does not, however, settle the whole Alaskan boundary question, which has been pending for many years. It does provide for the settlement of that portion relating to the northern boundary, about half of the actual boundary line between Alaska and the British possessions, and fortunately the portions which demand instant treatment to remove the possibility of dangerous friction. The south portion of the line, however, remains to be fixed, for it was not only very insufficiently described in the Russian treaty of cession as a line running laong the tops of a mountain range skirting the coast from the southern edge of Alaska to a point where it connected with the 141st meridian, but investigation by the coast and geodetic survey is said to have developed the fact that there is no such mountain range. Superintendent Duffield, of our coast survey and Mr. King, one of the British crown surveyors, under a special treaty, made a careful survey of the territory in the vicinity of the supposed boundary, with a view to the gathering of information on which to base negotiations for the drawing of a new boundary line, for it had become apparent that the Russian definition was worthless, and that the subject must be treated de novo. The reports of the surveys are expected to be made very soon, and then negotiations will be set on foot for the creation of a commission to locate the southern section of the boundary line.

Klamath Commission Dissolved.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The Klamath boundary commission has been dissolved. Secretary Francis has accepted the resignation of Chairman Coleman, to take effect tomorrow, and the members, ex-Surveyor-General Hammond, of California, and Captain Applegate, of Klamath Falls, Or., discontinued their connection some time ago. Mr. Coleman will remain here, acting in a confidential capacity with Secretary Francis until the latter leaves office. The commission investigated the boundary lines of the Klamath Indian reservation in Oregon, and their report was approved a few days ago and forwarded to congress.

An elaborate scheme has been formulated for providing Johannesburg, South Africa, with a comprehensive system of electric railroads.

The Defalcation $200,000.

Boston, Jan. 29.—The annual meeting of the Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Co., whose treasurer, Frank C. Miles, was recently found to be a defaulter for a large amount, was held today. President Stone, in regard to the Miles defalcation, said: "Taking the most favorable view of the condition, the defalcation would in round numbers amount to $209,402."

There is no water on the moon's surface.

Chicago Apartment-House Fire.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Twenty-five families, occupants of the Newton apartment building, Thirty-ninth and Calumet avenue, were driven from their beds by fire at 2:30 this morning. When the firemen reached the building it was full of smoke and men, women and children were running out in snow-covered streets, scantilly clad. By quick work the firemen subdued what threatened to be a serious fire. All of the occupants will suffer a loss to their household goods by water. The damage to the building was small.